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life sprang from the sea. And the tide that ebbs and flows through our heart is composed of much the same elements as the ocean from which it was originally dipped.

#### SHORT NAMES

When a man makes a new invention his work is not done. He should invent a new name for it. Here he is apt to fail for, being more of a mechanic than a philologist, he turns over the job to the Greek professor who manufactures one out of old roots. So it happens that many a handy little pocket tool is handicapped by a name that wraps three times around the tongue. But the people refuse to stand for it.

Consider what a Babel-like botch has been made of the job of naming the new art of photographing action. Rival inventors, rival word-wrights, and rival systems of Greek transliteration precipitated a war of words in which the chief belligerents were animatograph, animatoscope, biograph, bioscope, chronophotography, cinema, cinematograph, cinematoscope, cineograph, cineoscope, electrophotograph, electroscope, kinema, kinemacolor, kinematograph, kinematoscope, kinecograph, kineoscope, kinetoscope, motion pictures, moving pictures, photo plays, tachyscope, veriscope, vitagraph, vitascope, zootrope, zoogyrograph, zoogyroscope, and zoopraxiscope.

But the people—they call it “the movies.” It is not a great name, but it is better than some at least of those listed above.

If, instead of trying to load the new machine with a name implying that it had been invented in Athens or Rome, its godfathers had given it a respectable convenient name of one or two syllables like “volt,” “kodak,” or “velox,” much of this confusion might have been saved. Think how many millions of dollars, years of time, barrels of ink and

cubic miles of hot air would have been saved if “electricity” had been named in one syllable instead of five. We might even now cut it down to “el” except that by popular vote the six syllables of “elevated railroad” have been reduced to that handy term. So, too, the people have found a way to reduce “radiotelephony” to a single mouthful, “radio.”

The lesson of it is that if the father of a new invention does not want to have his child called by a nickname let him give it a short and snappy name on the start.

#### MEDIUMS AND TRICKSTERS

Those who believe in spiritistic phenomena call upon their opponents to disprove their hypothesis, and hold, rightly enough, that if ninety-nine mediums are merely tricksters, it does not prove that the hundredth is not genuine. It is, of course, impossible to prove the universal negative of such a proposition. It is merely a question of probabilities. We can merely say that if spirits do return, it is extremely unfortunate that they can only return under those conditions which are most favorable for deception.

What these conditions are we can learn from the practices of amateur and professional conjurers. Let us approach the matter from another starting point than is usually adopted. Instead of speculating as to how departed spirits would manifest themselves to us, a matter which we can know nothing about, let us consider what a trickster would do if he wished to deceive the public into thinking that he was possessed of spirit power, a matter on which we have unfortunately a great deal of information. What conditions would he impose? What methods would he use? The following are the chief characteristics of such fraudulent manifestations:

(1). Darkness. The less the light